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– DERIVATIVES **defibrillate** v. **defibrillator** n.

deficiency ■ n. (pl. **deficiencies**) a lack or shortage. ► a failing or shortcoming.

deficiency disease ■ n. a disease caused by the lack of some essential element in the diet, usually a particular vitamin or mineral.

deficient /drɪfɪ(ə)nt/ ■ adj. not having enough of a specified quality or ingredient: a diet **deficient** in vitamin B. ► insufficient or inadequate.

– DERIVATIVES **deficiently** adv.

– ORIGIN C16: from L. *deficient-*, *deficere* (see **DEFECT**).

deficit /ˈdefɪsɪt/ ■ n. 1 the amount by which something, especially a sum of money, falls short. ► an excess of expenditure or liabilities over income or assets in a given period. 2 technical a deficiency or failing, especially in a neurological or psychological function.

– ORIGIN C18: via Fr. from L. *deficit* 'it is lacking', from *deficere* (see **DEFECT**).

deficit spending ■ n. government spending, in excess of revenue, of funds raised by borrowing rather than from taxation.

defilade /ˌdɛfɪˈleɪd/ ■ n. Military the protection of a position, vehicle, or troops against enemy observation or gunfire.

– ORIGIN C19: from Fr. *défiler* 'protect from the enemy' + *-ADE*.

defile /drɪˈfaɪl/ ■ v. sully, mar, or spoil. ► desecrate or profane (something sacred). ► archaic rape or sexually assault (a woman).

– DERIVATIVES **defilement** n. **defiler** n.

– ORIGIN ME: alt. of obs. *defoul*, from OFr. *defouler* 'trample down', influenced by obs. *befile* 'befoul, defile'.

defile /drɪˈfaɪl/ ■ n. /also 'diːfaɪl/ a steep-sided narrow gorge or passage (originally one requiring troops to march in single file). ■ v. archaic (of troops) march in single file.

– ORIGIN C17: from Fr. *défilé* (n.), *défiler* (v.), from *dé* 'away from' + *file* 'column, file'.

define ■ v. 1 state or describe exactly the nature, scope, or meaning of. ► give the meaning of (a word or phrase). 2 mark out the limits of.

– DERIVATIVES **definable** adj. **definer** n.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *definire*, from a var. of L. *definire*, from *de-* (expressing completion) + *finire* 'finish'.

definite ■ adj. 1 clearly stated or decided; not vague or doubtful. ► (of a person) certain or sure about something. 2 clearly true or real. 3 having exact and discernible physical limits.

– DERIVATIVES **definiteness** n.

– ORIGIN C16: from L. *definitus* 'defined, set within limits', past part. of *definire* (see **DEFINE**).

definite article ■ n. Grammar a determiner (*the* in English) that introduces a noun phrase and implies that the thing mentioned has already been mentioned, or is common knowledge, or is about to be defined.

definite integral ■ n. Mathematics an integral expressed as the difference between values at specified upper and lower limits of the independent variable.

definitely ■ adv. without doubt (used for emphasis).

definition ■ n. 1 a formal statement of the exact meaning of a word. ► an exact description of the nature, scope, or meaning of something. ► the action or process of defining. 2 the degree of distinctness in outline of an object or image.

– PHRASES **by definition** by its very nature; intrinsically.

– DERIVATIVES **definitional** adj.

definitive ■ adj. 1 (of a conclusion or agreement) done or reached decisively and with authority. ► (of a book or other text) the most authoritative of its kind. 2 (of a postage stamp) for general use, not special or commemorative. ■ n. a definitive postage stamp.

– DERIVATIVES **definitively** adv.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *definitif*, *-ive*, from L. *definitivus*, from *definit-*, *definire* (see **DEFINE**).

deflagration ■ n. Chemistry the action of heating a substance until it burns away rapidly.

– DERIVATIVES **deflagrate** v. **deflagrator** n.

– ORIGIN C17: from L. *deflagratio*(n-), from *deflagrare* 'burn up', from *de-* 'away, thoroughly' + *flagrare* 'to burn'.

deflate ■ v. 1 let air or gas out of (a tyre, balloon, or similar object). ► be emptied of air or gas. 2 [usu. as adj. **deflated**] cause to feel suddenly dispirited. 3 Economics reduce price levels in (an economy).

– DERIVATIVES **deflator** n.

– ORIGIN C19: from *DE-* + *-flate* (as in *inflate*).

deflation ■ n. 1 the action or process of deflating or being deflated. 2 Economics reduction of the general level of prices in an economy. 3 Geology the removal of particles of rock, sand, etc. by the wind.

– DERIVATIVES **deflationary** adj. **deflationist** n. & adj.

deflect ■ v. deviate or cause to deviate from a straight course.

– DERIVATIVES **deflective** adj. **deflector** n.

– ORIGIN C16: from L. *deflectere*, from *de-* + *flectere* 'to bend'.

deflection (also **deflexion**) ■ n. the action or process of deflecting or being deflected. ► the amount by which something is deflected.

deflexed ■ adj. technical curving downwards or backwards.

deflocculate /diːˈflɒkjuleɪt/ ■ v. Chemistry break up (a suspended substance) into finer particles, producing a dispersion.

– DERIVATIVES **deflocculation** n.

defloration /ˌdiːflɔːˈreɪʃ(ə)n/ ■ n. dated or literary the taking of a woman's virginity.

– ORIGIN ME: from late L. *defloratio*(n-), from *deflorare* (see **DEFLOWER**).

deflower ■ v. dated or literary deprive (a woman) of her virginity.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *desflourer*, from a var. of late L. *deflorare*, from *de-* + L. *flos*, *flor-* 'a flower'.

defoliant ■ n. a chemical that removes the leaves from trees and plants, often used in warfare.

defoliate /diːˈfɔʊliet/ ■ v. remove leaves or foliage from (a plant or area).

– DERIVATIVES **defoliation** n. **defoliator** n.

– ORIGIN C18: from late L. *defoliat-*, *defoliare* 'to strip of leaves', from *de-* + *folium* 'leaf'.

deforest ■ v. clear of forest or trees.

– DERIVATIVES **deforestation** n.

deform ■ v. [often as adj. **deformed**] distort the shape or form of; make or become misshapen.

– DERIVATIVES **deformable** adj. **deformation** n.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *desformer*, via med. L. from L. *deformare*, from *de-* + *forma* 'a shape'.

deformity ■ n. (pl. **deformities**) a deformed part, especially of the body. ► the state of being deformed: *spinal deformity*.

DEFRA ■ abbrev. (in the UK) Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs.

defrag ■ v. (**defrags**, **defragging**, **defragged**) Computing short for **DEFRAGMENT**.

defragment /diːˈfrægˌmɛnt/ ■ v. Computing reduce the fragmentation of (a file) by concatenating parts stored in separate locations.

– DERIVATIVES **defragmentation** n. **defragmenter** n.

defraud ■ v. illegally obtain money from (someone) by deception.

– DERIVATIVES **defrauder** n.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *defrauder* or L. *defraudare*, from *de-* + *fraudare* 'to cheat'.

defray /diˈfreɪ/ ■ v. provide money to pay (a cost).

– DERIVATIVES **defrayable** adj. **defrayal** n. **defrayment** n.

– ORIGIN ME: from Fr. *défrayer*, from *dé-* + obs. *frai* 'cost, expenses'.

defrock ■ v. deprive (a person in holy orders) of ecclesiastical status.

defrost ■ v. 1 make or become free of accumulated ice. 2 thaw (frozen food).

– DERIVATIVES **defroster** n.

deft ■ adj. quick and neatly skilful.

– DERIVATIVES **deftly** adv. **deftness** n.

– ORIGIN ME: var. of **DAFT**, in the obs. sense 'meek'.

defunct /drɪˈfʌŋ(k)t/ ■ adj. no longer existing or functioning.